

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OC-05 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00

FCC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 COME-00 SAB-01 AF-10

IO-10 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 NASA-02 PM-03

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R 011315Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9428

INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS JIDDA 7041

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, TSPA, BTIO, OCON, TS

SUBJECT: ARAB TELECOM MEETING IN TUNIS

REF: STATE 251586

1. ECON COUNSELOR BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF ACTING MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS ABDUL AZIZ QURAYSHI AND HIS DEPUTY OMAR FAQIEH NEED FOR ARAB STATES TO CONSULT IN INTELSAT BEFORE PROCEEDING TO FORM A REGIONAL SATELLITE PROJECT. FAQIEH CALLED IN FAYSAL ZAIDAN, WHO WILL BE THE HEAD OF THE SAUDI DELEGATION TO THE TUNISIAN-SPONSORED CONFERENCE OF THE ARAB TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION. BOTH SAID THAT THEY WERE WELL AWARE OF THE NEED TO CONSULT WITH INTELSAT ON THE SATELLITE PROJECT. ZAIDAN, WHO IS DIRECTOR GENERAL AND FORMER ACTING DEPUTY MINISTER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND WHOSE FATHER WAS DEPUTY MINISTER FOR MANY YEARS AND STILL HAS SUBSTANTIAL INFLUENCE ON SAUDI POLICY, SAID THAT THE TUNIS MEETING MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT APPROVE A SATELLITE PROJECT (PRESS REPORT NOV 25 CLAIMED THAT SATELLITE PROJECT HAS BEEN REFERRED TO A MEETING IN KUWAIT AT SOME LATER DATE).

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2. EMBASSY TUNIS MAY FIND ZAIDAN A USEFUL CONTACT. HE IS U.S. EDUCATED AND IS INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT

ABOUT SATELLITE TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN GENERAL, INCLUDING
A POSSIBLE DOMESTIC SATELLITE FOR SAUDI ARABIA.

3. DEPT COMMERCE EXPERT CHARLES WILK WHO HAPPENED TO
BE IN RIYADH IS A PART OF THE U.S./SAUDI COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A SURVEY OF SAUDI TELECOMMUNICATIONS
WAS ALSO BRIEFED ABOUT THE MATTER. COMSAT DIRECTOR
ROBERT OWEN, WHO IS NEGOTIATING A CONTRACT FOR SUPER-
VISING TECHNICAL PART OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF SATELLITE
STATIONS FOR THE KINGDOM, WAS ALSO PRESENT.
AKINS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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30 JUN 2005

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Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005